



Belonesox belizanus

Pike killfish, Pike top live bearer, Pike topminnow

Threat scores

1. Ecological Impact
 - A voracious predator known to reduce populations of eastern mosquitofish *Gambusia holbrooki* & other native poeciliid and cyprinodontid populations in areas where it has been introduced
 - Their predation on mosquitofish as well as on other cyprinodontiform fish, impairs natural mosquito control in southern Florida (Lee et al., 1980)
 - Additionally they have been reported as highly detrimental to various marsh communities in Florida, naturally impoverished in ichthyophagous species (Shafland, 1996)
2. Invasive Potential
 - The euryhaline nature of pike killfish has facilitated their spread throughout Florida.
 - They can readily tolerate habitats deficient in oxygen (Lee et al., 1980; Page and Burr, 1991)
 - Pike killfish continue expanding their range in this state (Shafland, 1996)
3. Geographic Extent
 - Regionally pervasive
4. Management Difficulty
 - Some populations die out on own, but still unable to eradicate from Florida
 - Continued introductions from aquarists inhibits eradication attempts



Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Central and South America
2. Introduced: Florida, Texas
3. Habitats
 - Estuaries, bays, brackish water, marine habitats
 - Prefers hard, alkaline waters, slow moving fresh water streams, brackish waters of mangrove and reed swamps, and around inlets of salty bays

Invasion Pathways

1. Other Animal Trade
2. Pet, aquarium, and water garden trade

Non-Native Locations

1. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer et al. 2008. Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity. *Frontiers in ecology and the environment*. Vol. 6, No. 9, pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. http://diszhal.info/halak/Belonesox_belizanus2.jpg